



I

1966

THE
RURAL DISTRICT
OF
SAINT AUSTELL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
St. Austell Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1966.

The general picture of the health of the community is reasonably good, the infantile mortality rate improved on the previous year, the death rate was lower than the national rate, the number on the tuberculosis register was considerably lower at the end of 1966 than it was at the end of 1965. Although two deaths occurred due to tuberculosis, one was in the over 65 age group and the other in the over 75 age group.

The other notifiable diseases showed an increase, mainly in the number of cases of measles, but fortunately there were no deaths.

The Chief Public Health Inspector has contributed substantially to the Report. I would like to thank the Officers of the Council for their co-operation and goodwill and particularly the Public Health Staff for their constant help.

I take great pleasure in being able to take this opportunity of expressing not only my thanks but the thanks of the Public Health Department to the Health Committee for their interest and forward thinking in all matters affecting the health of the people of St. Austell Rural District.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant.

J. McGovern.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

National and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	...	82,389 acres
Population	...	22,070
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	7,216
Rateable Value	...	£744,531
Product of Penny Rate	...	£3,032

The St. Austell Rural District is an extensive area stretching across the County and having a northern and southern seaboard. Typical of England, where the weather is a standard source of conversation, the Rural District shows distinct differences in weather conditions between the north and south coasts. The North coast is the drier, more bracing but more windy aspect. The China Clay Industry, Agriculture and the Tourist Trade are the main sources of income. In recent years the China Clay Industry has grown continuously and is a valuable export. The influx of visitors causes a great seasonal increase in population, with the concomitants of increase of prosperity and increase of problems.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate/1,000 Population</u>	
				<u>Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Legitimate	165	155	346	15.68	
Illegitimate	14	12			
Corrected for comparison with other areas				16.78	17.1
Illegitimate births per cent of total live births				7.5%	7.9%
<u>Still Births</u>				<u>Rate/1,000 Live and Still Births</u>	
				<u>Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Legitimate	8	5	14	38.9	15.4
Illegitimate	1	Nil			
<u>Total Live & Still Births</u>	188	172	360		
<u>Infant Deaths</u>					
Legitimate	3	5	8		
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil			
Rate/1,000 total live births				23.1	19.0
Rate/1,000 legitimate live births				25.0	
Rate/1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil	
<u>Neo-natal deaths</u>				<u>Rate/1,000 Live Births</u>	
(under 4 weeks)	2	3	5	14.4	12.9
<u>Early neo-natal deaths</u>					
(under 1 week)	1	3	4	11.56	11.1
<u>Peri-natal deaths</u>				<u>Rate/1,000 Live and Still Births</u>	
Still births and deaths under 1 week	10	8	18	50.0	26.3
Maternal deaths	Nil		Nil	0.0	0.26
Deaths (all ages and causes)				<u>Rate/1,000 Population</u>	
	119	127	246	11.1	
Corrected for comparisons with other areas				11.0	11.7

The following table gives the causes of infant deaths :-

Cause	Age in Weeks	
	-4	4-52
Leukaemia		1
Congenital Abnormality	1	1
Ill-defined causes (Prematurity etc.)	4	1

The following is an abbreviated list of the causes of death of persons of all ages :-

	M	F
1) Tub. of resp. sys.	-	-
2) Tuberculosis, other	-	2
3) Syphilitic disease	-	-
4) Diphtheria	-	-
5) Whooping Cough	-	-
6) Meningococcal infections	-	-
7) Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8) Measles	-	-
9) Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10) Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	6
11) " " lung, bronchus	7	1
12) " " breast	-	3
13) " " uterus	-	1
14) Other malig. & lymphatic neoplasms	21	15
15) Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
16) Diabetes	3	2
17) Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	28
18) Coronary disease, angina	24	13
19) Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
20) Other heart disease	18	16
21) Other circulatory disease	4	5
22) Influenza	-	3
23) Pneumonia	5	6
24) Bronchitis	2	1
25) Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
26) Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
27) Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
28) Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29) Hypertrophy of prostate	1	-
30) Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31) Congenital malformations	1	1
32) Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	14
33) Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
34) All other accidents	4	3
35) Suicide	1	1
36) Homicide and operations of war	-	-

All Causes

119

127

Number of Deaths in Age Groups

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 4 weeks	2	35
4 weeks and under 1 year	1	2
Age in Years		
1-	-	1
5-	1	1
15-	1	-
25-	2	-
35-	2	7
45-	9	4
55-	23	16
65-	40	29
75 and over	38	64

The Causes of Greatest Mortality in 1965

Heart Diseases	103
Cancer (all forms)	56
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	42
Diseases of Respiratory System	20

SECTION B

Public Health Staff

(a) Medical Officer of Health

J. McGovern, M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Area Health Office,
Moorland Road,
St. Austell.
St. Austell 2206.

(b) Public Health Inspectors

H.G. Lawless, Cert. S.I.B., Food Inspector's Certificate.
T.J. Down, Cert. S.I.B.

(c) Clerk

E.A. Freer was appointed as clerk in the Department at the end of the year.

Laboratory Facilities

These were available at the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Infirmary (City), Truro

Personal Services

These services are provided by the Cornwall County Council and include such activities as home nursing, domiciliary midwifery, health visiting, vaccination and immunisation, maternity and child welfare, ante and post natal care, home help, visits to the elderly and the various aspects of school health. The business of a Local Authority health department is to not only take measures to prevent disease but to try to recognise disease in an early stage, particularly those killing diseases which can be cured if treated early. With this in mind, Smear Test clinics were organised early in 1966. It was disappointing to find, at the beginning, that those applicants who had responded to the publicity could not be attended to as expeditiously as one would have wished. The shortage of

laboratory technicians caused a severe hold up with the result that the waiting list grew and the waiting time lengthened. Fortunately this position improved fairly soon and inroads were rapidly made in the waiting list. The clinics were limited to a number that allowed reasonable time for examination and an appointment system prevented delays in the waiting room. It was decided to extend the scope of the clinics by including breast examination and examination of the urine. The clinics proved valuable not only in the early discovery of malignant disease but in the discovery of less serious conditions which required treatment, conditions which if left untreated could cause much ill health.

A very considerable extension of the welfare services has taken place and close co-operation exists between the County staff and the departments of the District Council.

Clinics functioning throughout the area are given, since all clinics cater for people from the Rural District area.

Clinics

The following clinics are held at the places and dates indicated :-

Child Welfare	(Roche	- Victory Hall - 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month	
	(Indian Queens	- Victory Hall - 3rd Wednesday each month	
	(St. Dennis	- Methodist Sunday School - 4th Thursday each month. Last clinic held 24th November 1966.	
	(Summercourt	- Memorial Hall - 2nd Wednesday each month	
	(Par	- Gott Hall - 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month	
	(Bethel	- Church Hall - 2nd Wednesday each month	
	(Charlestown	- Church Hall - 4th Wednesday each month	
	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month	
	(Newquay	- Red Cross Hall - 1st and 3rd Thursday each month	
	(Newquay	- St. Columb Minor - 2nd and 4th Thursday each month	
Ante Natal	(St. Austell	- Penrice Maternity Hospital - every Wednesday morning	
	(Newquay	- St. John's Ambulance Hall - every Thursday afternoon	
Cervical Cytology (Smear Test)	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road) by appointment
	(Newquay	- Hospital	
Orthopaedic	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - every Tuesday morning	
	(Newquay	- St. John's Ambulance Hall - every Thursday afternoon	
Tuberculosis	(St. Austell	- Hospital - every Monday	
	(Newquay	- Hospital - 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday of the month	
Tuberculosis Contacts	(St. Austell	- Hospital - 1st and last Tuesday afternoon	
	(Newquay	- Hospital - 3rd Tuesday afternoon	
Dental	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - Daily	
	(Newquay	- Berry Road - Three times per week	

Ophthalmic	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - Tuesday by appointment
	(Newquay	- Hospital - By arrangement
Ear Nose and Throat	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - By arrangement
	(Newquay	- Hospital - By arrangement
Psychiatric	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - Each Monday morning
Family Planning	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - 2nd, 3rd & 4th
	(Friday evening 6.30 - 8.0
	(- Moorland Road - 2nd Monday afternoon 2.30 - 4.0
Child Guidance	(St. Austell	- Moorland Road - Every Wednesday
Venereal Diseases	(St. Austell	- Hospital - Tuesday 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
	(Newquay	- Hospital - Wednesday 4.30 - 5 p.m. women 5.15 - 5.45 p.m. men

SECTION C

Sanitary Conditions

Water

On the 1st April, 1966, the newly formed North and Mid Cornwall Water Board became the suppliers of water to over 80% of the population of the Rural District. The offices of the Board are in Wadebridge, Phone Wadebridge 2148, after office hours emergency calls can be made by asking the Telephone Exchange for Freefone 914. St. Austell Rural District has representation on the Water Board. The results of all water samples taken either by Officers of the Rural District, or by Officers of the Water Board are forwarded to the Medical Officer of the Rural District Council, thereby ensuring immediate knowledge of any adverse factors affecting the purity of the water supply. During the year 129 samples yielded 111 satisfactory and 18 unsatisfactory. The causes of the unsatisfactory received immediate remedial treatment, follow up samples being satisfactory.

Sewerage

The population of the St. Austell Rural District resembles the population of the rest of the Country in the desire for sewerage schemes. The Fraddon Scheme which was commenced in 1965 made progress throughout 1966. It is unfortunate that although everyone admits the necessity for sewerage the acquisition of the necessary land for the treatment works so often presents difficulty. The following parishes are still without facilities viz. Creed, Lanlivery, Luxulyan, St. Ewe, St. Wenn and St. Michael Caerhayes.

Public Conveniences

The Council own and maintain 10 public conveniences and contribute towards the upkeep of two others which are privately owned. Agreement has been reached for the provision of a public convenience at Golant. Hand washing facilities are being installed in the conveniences.

Rodent Control

No operator is now employed, owing to the operation of an efficient ex-Ministry Contractor in the area who deals with industrial and farming infestations. Domestic complaints are dealt with by the Public Health Inspectors, and tips and sewage works by the Council's staff normally engaged thereon.

Beaches

Two life-guards were employed during the summer on our only surfing beach. There were no fatal incidents although several rescues were made. On other beaches lifebuoys and lines were maintained. Arrangements were made to scavenge one beach. Consideration is being given to the problem caused by the movement of the Sand Dunes at Mawgan Porth towards the road and houses.

Private Water Supplies

Seventeen private supplies were investigated and analysed, nine of which were unsatisfactory. Appropriate action was taken.

Scrap Metal Dealers

Twenty nine dealers were registered under the Act. There are none which can properly be described as 'itinerant', and none have been so registered.

Drainage

The need for sewerage systems serving the villages of Quintrell Downs and Sticker is more urgent, and Schemes are in course of preparation.

Animal Boarding Establishments

There are three, which have been found satisfactory and registered.

National Assistance Act 1948

Two persons were buried and the cost defrayed by the rates.

Petroleum Acts

Seventy eight licences were issued to retailers and private users of petrol from pumps.

Litter

At the request of the County Council the Council agreed to collect litter from lay-bys etc., where bins were situated. Paper Sacks in metal stands have now been substituted, and the County Council pay 6d. per sack for collection.

Refuse Collection

Four vehicles make a weekly collection throughout the district except

- (a) where the dwellings are very isolated, and in a few cases it is done fortnightly
- (b) at the R.A.F. Station, St. Mawgan where (under contract) many bins are emptied daily.

In the summer twice weekly collections are made from hotels and caravan sites this being necessary to keep conditions sanitary. Two side loaders were replaced with new rear loading compression type vehicles during the year.

Refuse Disposal

Our one central tip is controlled with a "Drott" Shovel/Scraper which has given no trouble.

Housing

Twenty nine houses were the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders.

Defects were remedied both by formal notices and informal action in respect of twenty two houses.

Improvement Grants

No. approved in 1965 :-	Standard	29
	Discretionary	36
		<u>65</u>

involving eventual payment of about £15,000

No. of Discretionary grants paid is 55 amounting to	£16,200
No. of Standard grants paid is 40 amounting to	<u>6,800</u>
Total Paid	<u>£23,000</u>

Since the scheme started 817 applications have been dealt with, and in only 18 cases were grants refused. Thirty eight applications were withdrawn.

New Houses

Completed during the year

By the Council	Nil
By Private Enterprise	67

Caravan Sites

There is a total of 18 caravan sites licensed in the District. Many of them are situated within a short distance of the Northern seaboard and cater very largely for the large influx of visitors during the summer months. All sites have modern amenities available and have been brought up to the requirements of the Model Standards.

Department Work Statistics

Water samples	17
Drainage	76
Refuse	64
Rodents	40
Caravan sites	84
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	60
Footpaths	4
Petroleum installations	28
Dangerous buildings	4
Beaches	16
Fire precautions	4
Houses inspected	148
Improvement Grant inspections	248
Meat inspections	460
Butchers and grocers	32
Bakehouses	4
Schools	6
Dairies	5
Pathological samples	4
Miscellaneous visits	48

SECTION D

Housing

Applications for Council Houses

Total No. of live applications	269
" " " families without separate homes	27
" " " " in unfit houses	49
" " " " overcrowded	41
" " " unmarried persons applying	2
" " requiring houses for other reasons	150

Types of Houses required by Applicants

1 bedroom	11
2 "	78
3 "	81
4 "	2
Unclassified	97

(a) Council Houses Completed during the Year - Nil

(b) Houses Purchased by Council - 4

(c) Proposals for 1967

St. Columb	10 O.A.P. dwellings
Polgooth	10 O.A.P. dwellings
St. Stephen	(32 O.P. dwellings { 14 houses
Roche	14 O.P. dwellings
Luxulyan	10 O.P. dwellings

(d) Overall position at 31st December, 1966

The Council now owns 880 dwellings.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supplies

No complaints have been received about keeping quality or delivery arrangements.

(b) Ice Cream

Almost always retailed pre-packed. The locally manufactured article is regularly sampled, and where sold from bulk supervision is made of utensils, storage, etc. All Retailers have proper refrigerators. Itinerant Vendors have suitable equipment, and carry proper hand-washing facilities.

(c) Food Premises

Action was taken to bring one meat retailer's premises up to standard.

(d) Meat Inspection - Slaughterhouses

100 per cent inspection continues throughout the district and the excellent quality can readily be seen from the following table.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	567	-	-	161	574	-
Number inspected	567	-	-	161	574	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	35	-	-	4	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.2	-	-	2.5	.17	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcass condemned	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	-	-	-	4	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	-	-	-	.7	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Weight Condemned (Estimated)	250 lbs	-	-	10 lbs	50 lbs	-

Other Foods

Condemnations :-

184 lbs Tinned ham
48 lbs Bacon
18 lbs Tinned pork luncheon meat
8 lbs Tinned luncheon meat
22 lbs Tinned pork
6 lbs Tinned tongue
24 Ducks - 147 lbs

SECTION F

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received

<u>Disease</u>	<u>1966</u> <u>No. of cases - St. Austell Rural</u>
Measles	171
Sonne dysentery	5
Scarlet fever	1
Whooping cough	5
Pneumonia	1
Food poisoning	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	6

Immunisation

<u>Children born in years</u>							
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962-1959	1958-1950	Total
Primary Immunisation (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Whooping Cough)	144	102	23	6	14	-	289
Reinforcing Immunisation (Diphtheria Tetanus & Whooping Cough)		5	7	5	29	22	68
Primary Immunisation (Diphtheria & Tetanus)					22	17	39
Reinforcing Immunisation (Diphtheria & Tetanus)			2		187	159	348

Smallpox Vaccination

152 primary vaccinations and 9 revaccinations were carried out in 1966.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis

The oral vaccine, is the only one now used and is freely available to all Medical Practitioners from the Area Health Office, St. Austell.

Oral Polio Vaccination

	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962-1959	1958-1950	Total
Primary	63	200	42	17	56	38	416
Booster		1	4	7	151	56	219

Tuberculosis

The number of cases on the register at 31st December, 1966 was :-

<u>Pulmonary</u>	57 males	35 females
<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	4 males	3 females

This shows a marked drop from the previous year, in spite of 6 new notifications 5 of these being in 1 family.

Tuberculosis Prevention

Although the number of deaths from tuberculosis has diminished very notably over the years, and the notification of new cases has diminished also, but less markedly, a vigorous policy of prevention has been pursued in the County of Cornwall. School children in the age group 11 years are offered B.C.G. vaccination against the disease. In 1966 following preliminary testing of 690 children in the selected age group, 533 children received B.C.G. Children who have already received the vaccine in early life and show a positive reaction on testing do not need vaccination and hence the discrepancy between those tested and those receiving the B.C.G.

In addition to the above, all new cases are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor in order to assist in any measures needed to ensure continuation of treatment, cases on the list receive follow-up visits, and contacts of cases are visited and advice given regarding Xray examination. Patients receive advice regarding the need for care in preventing the spread of the disease to contacts.

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948

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Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on register (3)	Number of inspections (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	9	6
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	68	12
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	-
Total :	6	77	18

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Number of cases in which
defects were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Referred			
		Found Remedied		To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)
		(3)	(4)		
Want of cleanliness S.1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences S.7					
(a) insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) insufficient lighting	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total :	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Section 110

Section 111

Nature of work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. of Outworkers Section 110(1)(c) (3)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (4)
Wearing apparel Making, etc.	13	1	Nil
Household linen	15	1	Nil

